

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following is a complete listing of the claims which will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 29, wherein the nonwoven material is a wet nonwoven material, a dry nonwoven material, or a spunbonded nonwoven material.
3. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 29, wherein the nonwoven material is a cellulose nonwoven material.
4. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 29, wherein the nonwoven material is printed.
5. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 29, wherein the thickness of the cover layer is at least 90  $\mu\text{m}$ .
6. (Currently amended) The flat material according to claim 29, whereby the coating compound for the cover layer is based on a material selected from ~~the group of~~ plastisols, organosols, dispersions, ~~or~~ lacquers, or combinations thereof.
7. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 6, wherein the plastisol is a PVC plastisol.

8. (Currently amended) The flat material according to claim 6, wherein the coating compound for the cover layer is a material containing polyreaction products, whereby the polyreaction products ~~can be~~ are obtained by the reaction of at least one dicarboxylic acid, polycarboxylic acid or their derivatives and mixtures thereof with at least one epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester or a mixture of these epoxidation products.

9. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 8, wherein the dicarboxylic acid is maleic acid, itaconic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, methyl succinic acid, malic acid, or furan dicarboxylic acid or a mixture containing at least two of these acids.

10. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 8, wherein the polycarboxylic acid is selected from citric acid or aconitic acid.

11. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 8, wherein the derivative of the dicarboxylic acid or polycarboxylic acid is an anhydride or partial ester.

12. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 11, wherein the alcohol component of the partial ester is a polyol.

13. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 12, wherein the polyol is dipropylene glycol, a propane diol, a butane diol, a hexane diol, a hexane triol, glycerin, or pentaerythritol, or a mixture containing at least two of these polyols.

14. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 8, wherein the mixture of at least one dicarboxylic acid or polycarboxylic acid or their derivatives is a mixture of a partial ester of maleic acid anhydride and dipropylene glycol with citric acid.

15. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 8, wherein the epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester contains more than one epoxy group per molecule.

16. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 8, wherein the epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester is epoxidized linseed oil, epoxidized soybean oil, epoxidized castor oil, epoxidized rapeseed oil or vernonia oil or a mixture containing at least two of these epoxidation products.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 29, wherein the cover layer is transparent.

19. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 18, wherein the coating compound for the cover layer contains no more than 2 weight percent of filler.
20. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 29, wherein one or more flat nonwoven materials are additionally located under the cover layer.
21. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 20, wherein the nonwoven material located under the cover layer is a glass fiber nonwoven material.
22. (Currently amended) The flat material according to claim 29, further comprising at least one carrier layer and at least one previously defined cover layer, ~~possibly~~ optionally one backing coating located under the carrier layer made of a chemically or mechanically foamed foam layer, and ~~possibly~~ optionally a compact or base coating, which is positioned between the carrier layer and cover layer and/or between the carrier layer and backing coating.
23. (Previously presented) The flat material according to claim 22, wherein a protective layer of unsaturated curable lacquer systems is located over the cover layer, whereby the polymers or copolymers for the lacquer systems are selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, and mixtures of these.
24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 26, wherein one or more flat nonwoven materials are additionally located under the cover layer before the hardening of the cover layer.

26. (Currently amended) A process for providing a flexible multilayered flat material comprising:

substantially impregnating at least one substantially flat ~~nonwoven~~ reinforcement material with a coating compound, wherein the reinforcement material is a nonwoven material with a weight in the range from 9 to 50 g/m<sup>2</sup>; wherein the coating compound contains at least one additive selected from a filler, a pigment, an expanding agent, a foaming agent, a hydrophobification agent, an auxiliary material, or any combination thereof, wherein the filler is selected from wood flour, chalk, cork flour, barium sulfate, slate flour, silicic acid, kaolin, quartz flour, talcum, lignin, non-fibrous cellulose, glass, colored granulate, colored chips, or any combination thereof, and wherein the auxiliary material is selected from tall oil, synthetic resins, natural resins, basalmic resin, copal resin, hydrocarbon resins, siccatives, antioxidants, UV stabilizers, lubricants, antistatics, processing acids, or any combination thereof;

hardening the coating compound to form a hardened cover layer; and

applying the hardened cover layer to a carrier.

27-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A flexible multilayer flat material comprising at least one cover layer, wherein the cover layer consists ~~essentially~~ of:

- a) at least one coating compound;
- b) at least one flat reinforcement material positioned in the cover layer, whereby the reinforcement material is completely surrounded by a coating compound, whereby the reinforcement material is a nonwoven material with a weight in the range from 9 to 50 g/m<sup>2</sup>; and
- c) ~~optionally~~, at least one additive selected from a filler, a pigment, an expanding agent, a foaming agent, a hydrophobification agent, an auxiliary material, or any combination thereof;

wherein the filler is selected from wood flour, chalk, cork flour, barium sulfate ("heavy spar"), slate flour, silicic acid, kaolin, quartz flour, talcum, lignin, non-fibrous cellulose, glass, colored granulate, colored chips, or any combination thereof; and

wherein the auxiliary material is selected from tall oil, synthetic resins, natural resins, balsamic resin, copal resin, hydrocarbon resins, siccatives, antioxidants, UV stabilizers, lubricants, antistatics, processing acids, or any combination thereof.

30. (New) The flexible multilayer flat material according to Claim 29, wherein:

the coating compound is a plastisol, an organosol, a dispersion, a lacquer, or any combination thereof, and

the reinforcement material is completely surrounded by the coating compound constituting the cover layer, so that a closed layer is formed around the reinforcement material.

31. (New) The flexible multilayer flat material according to Claim 29, wherein:

the reinforcement material is completely surrounded by the coating compound constituting the cover layer to form a closed layer around the reinforcement material; and

the coating compound is a material comprising a polyreaction product of at least one dicarboxylic acid, polycarboxylic acid or their derivatives and mixtures thereof with at least one epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester.